

THUNDER BAY CEDC
COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Thunder Bay Economic Developments

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COMMENTS FROM THE EDITOR:

Have you recently started, expanded, or re-located your business to Thunder Bay? Contact us to find out how you could be featured in the next issue of our newsletter!

Do you like the new look of our newsletter? We would love to hear from you! Please contact Melody Afshar at mafshar@thunderbay.ca or (807) 625-3969 to tell us what you think. All feedback is welcomed and appreciated!

Message from the CEO:



In November 2010, the CEDC unveiled its "new" Strategic Plan for 2010-2012. The original CEDC Strategic Plan was introduced in August 2008, which in hindsight was decidedly bad timing to launch the initiative, in view of the fact that even the world's most pre-eminent economists failed to predict the worst economic meltdown since the Great Depression. However, a close review of the "coles notes" version (i.e. the 2010 CEDC Strategic Plan) and its business focus reveals that the essential tenets and research that formed the underpinnings of the 2008 Strategic Plan are identical with the current version.

Thunder Bay's Strategic Plan is based upon the fact that we are strategically located to serve a global marketplace and, in particular, the growth needs of developing countries such as China and..... inevitably India.

Thunder Bay is already coming into its own as a "re-engineered economy," a phenomenon which national media including the Globe and Mail (May 17, 2010) and CBC's "The National" (May 20, 2011) have picked up on in their national reporting. Thunder Bay's re-engineered economy is a work in progress and is based on two indisputable facts:

First, over a decade ago, community leaders saw the need to change and diversify the economy. Thanks to them and to visionaries like Mr. Keith Jobbitt, a flourishing Health Sciences sector is well underway, with the most recent example being the announcement of the new home of Tornado Medical Systems in the historic James Whalen Building.

Secondly, we have always known that Thunder Bay and Northern Ontario, along with Western Canada, are abundant in natural resources and commodities. Essentially, all of the resources that "are in the ground and on top of the ground" are in demand by developing countries. If, in fact, we are indeed in the midst of a "commodity supercycle" as many economists have recently written, then the best is yet to come for the growth of Thunder Bay's economy. If the recent grand opening of Global Sticks Inc. is a harbinger of manufacturing change, as Havard Gould of CBC National recently suggested on national television on May 20, 2011, then we are in for some very interesting times!!

Traditional resource sectors including forestry are witnessing new innovative companies coming into our midst, and we have not even begun to scratch the surface for the implications of the explosive growth potential in the mining sector and the Ring of Fire.





"Stickin" To It: The Global Sticks Inc. Story

What would you do with a pile of wood? Would you use it as firewood? Would you start building a cottage? Would you ever think to create novelty wooden sticks? Global Sticks Inc. did - a whole six billion's worth.

Global Sticks Inc., a worldwide manufacturer of novelty wooden sticks, officially opened for business on May 20, 2011 and getting to that point was no easy task.

Back in 2007, Global Sticks Inc., realized that its operations in China were going to become much more expensive given the rising cost of fuel. This new reality caused president, Reggie Nukovic, to make the decision to relocate to North America. He began an international search for areas that were abundant in white birch. Unbeknownst to him, Northwestern Ontario was rich in white birch supply.

After approaching the Thunder Bay Community Economic Development Commission in early January 2008, the two organizations worked together to establish a new home somewhere in Thunder Bay.

Plans were underway until the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression took place; an event that even the brightest of economists did not predict.

The following series of events created difficulties for the company, one of which was securing financing. During the economic crisis, lending froze and not many banks were willing to take a chance on Global Sticks Inc. In addition, finding an appropriate location for their operations in Northwestern Ontario was a bit of a challenge.

The CEDC worked tirelessly with Global Sticks Inc., the Province and other community partners to find solutions. Months had passed and Global Sticks Inc. finally secured financing through two local financial institutions, and found a location in Oliver Paipoonge.

The new plant is to produce up to six billion food-grade wood sticks each year that are to be used as tongue depressors, corn dog sticks, ice cream sticks and paint paddles.

Stormax International Inc., an investor in Global Sticks Inc., also commenced operations in the new facility. The company is a manufacturer of machinery that specializes in the production, packing and stacking of freshly made ice cream sticks. Stormax International Inc. decided to locate in Global Sticks Inc.'s new facility because it "wanted to be close to a novelty wooden stick manufacturer for innovation purposes."



In these photos: (From left to right) Darby Gordon (Document Control Coordinator, Global Sticks Inc.), CJ Jean (SQF Practitioner, Global Sticks Inc.), Sharon O'Shea (HR Manager, Global Sticks Inc.), Reggie Nukovic (President, Global Sticks Inc.), Steve Demmings (CEO, Thunder Bay Community Economic Development Commission).

Building of a new state-of-the-art facility soon followed, creating 50 construction jobs in the region. Upon completion, the company was ready to officially open its doors.

Marking another positive step forward for the Thunder Bay economy, the establishment of Global Sticks Inc. paved the way for other value-added forestry-related companies to locate in the area.

During the grand opening ceremony, Reggie Nukovic expressed how pleased the Global Sticks Inc. team was to be opening their new facililty, especially after years of hard work and planning with the CEDC.

Stormax currently employs 10 people and is projected to create up to 15 jobs in the future.

In total, 145 potential jobs is projected for these two companies.

For more information, visit Global Sticks Inc.'s website at www.global-sticks.net

TORNADO YOUNG COMPANY SETS UP SHOP IN HISTORIC BUILDING

After a year of renovations, Tornado Medical Systems is now ready to call the James Whalen Building its new home.

On May 11, 2011, Tornado held its grand opening ceremony on the sixth floor of the James Whalen Building. Though not fully moved in, the team welcomed the public and the media into its new home, where it will be developing and commercializing a revolutionary portfolio of medical imaging technologies.

"Tornado's technologies dramatically increase the performance of existing imaging modalities, providing clinicians with improved tools to detect, diagnose, and treat disease. Integrating advanced design and engineering practices with world-class medical expertise creates a unique environment for developing clinically relevant tools and applications."



In this photo: (Left to right) Michael Power (CEO, Thunder Bay Regional Research Institute), Keith Jobbitt (Director & Board Chair, Thunder Bay Regional Research Institute), Steve Demmings (CEO, Thunder Bay Community Economic Development Commission), and Stefan Larson (CEO, Tornado Medical Systems Inc.) at the grand opening reception of Tornado Medical Systems.

The CEDC, in partnership with the Thunder Bay Regional Research Institute, worked hard to establish Tornado's new office space in the 98-year old building. Tornado's opening was an ideal fit with the CEDC's vision to create an Information, Communication Technology (ICT) cluster. By utilizing the skills and talents of graduates from both Lakehead University and Confederation College, Tornado is able to create a highly educated workforce for the CEDC's Whalen ICT Project.







In this photo: *(From left to right: Daniel Klein, Cory Koski, Kevin Smeltzer, Greg Toombs , Nick Kitchener). First batch of staff setting up in Tornado Medical System's new office in the James Whalen Building (34 N Cumberland St.).*

"Tornado Medical Systems is the first of many high end, professional and ICT-related tenants that will be attracted to this unique building which will realize synergies that will be created as a result of similar tenancies."

Dr. Stefan Larson, CEO of Tornado Medical Systems, and his team have been working tirelessly to establish a strong base of operations in Thunder Bay. As part of the CEDC's Whalen ICT Project, Tornado's state-of-the-art facility will allow them to recruit top scientists and engineers required for their pre-clinical and clinical research and development.

Tornado's opening serves as a major catalyst in helping the CEDC achieve its long term goal of positioning the James Whalen Building as the home for high-end professional employment in the ICT sector. Tornado, and future health and ICT-related tenancies are indicative of the efforts that have been undertaken by the CEDC to reposition Thunder Bay as a more diversified, knowledge-based economy.

For more information on Tornado Medical Systems, visit www.tornado-medical.com

An Information Communication Technology Conference (ICT)

Companies on the Move

The CEDC hosted its first ever information communication technology conference on May 11, 2011 in partnership with Lakehead University and Confederation College. The theme of the conference was "Companies on the Move" and featured speakers that either worked for or owned companies that were on the move.

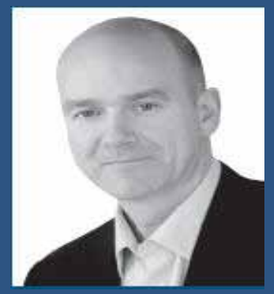
From gaming technology to firewalls, the speakers had nothing short of interesting to say to a sold out crowd. Yvan Couture, President & CEO of Primal Fusion Inc., recalled the day when one of Canada's tech leaders, Waterloo, was once in the same position as Thunder Bay. Now the city is home to big tech giants like Research in Motion and Google. It was through community partnerships over the course of 10 years or so that Waterloo was able to develop the flourishing technology sector it now enjoys today. Thunder Bay has the potential to grow like Waterloo, however, it will take time.

Michael Legary, a young and successful Canadian entrepreneur, spoke about the firewall technology that his company creates. Seccuris Inc., based out of Winnipeg, Manitoba, creates firewalls for large organizations all over Canada. Though the technology may be a little challenging to understand, it is in high demand, especially due to the prevalence of hacking cases around the world.

Andrew Czarnietzki, a young and very bright professional, brought some technology along with him for his presentation. With a portable simulator that resembles operating gears found on heavy machinery, Andrew allowed the crowd to view simulation technology at work. This technology has the potential for widespread application in a variety of industries such as mining, medicine, and construction; the possibilities are endless.

Claude Myre, a representative from the Ontario Ministry of Economic Development and Trade, was on the team that was responsible for recruiting gaming firm Ubisoft, to Toronto. He provided an overview of the province of Ontario's plan to be more competitive in attracting technology related firms and talent and gave some details as to why Ubisoft decided to set up shop in Toronto.

STAY TUNED AT WWW.THUNDERBAYCEDC.CA FOR DETAILS ON OUR UPCOMING ICT CONFERENCE THIS FALL!



Yvan Couture
President & CEO
Primal Fusion Inc.
Waterloo, Ontario



Andrew Czarnietzki
Technical Director
3Di
Edmonton, Alberta



Michael Legary
Chief Security Officer
Seccuris Inc.
Winnipeg, Manitoba



Claude Myre
Team Leader, Ministry of
Economic Development
& Trade
Toronto, Ontario

New Community Director Appointed to the CEDC Board of Directors



Dr. Brian Stevenson

Prior to taking the helm at Lakehead University, Dr. Stevenson served as Provost and Vice-President (academic) at the University of Winnipeg from 2006 to 2010, where he was also a professor in the Faculty of Business and Economics. During his tenure at the University of Winnipeg, he was involved in a significant re-invention and renewal of many aspects of the University including the establishment of a new Faculty of Business and Economics, a new Academic Plan, new graduate programs, the promotion of internationalization, and a new enrolment strategy.

Throughout his career, Dr. Stevenson has built a stellar record of leadership in academia and government; he has held senior positions at a number of high-profile organizations and universities including the federal government in Ottawa, the University of Alberta, and the Organization of American States in Washington. While at the University of Alberta, he excelled at building the institution's profile around the world. In only five years he was instrumental in increasing international enrolment dramatically and was also responsible for establishing an international residence.

Dr. Stevenson received his BA (Honours) and MA from the University of Victoria, and holds a doctorate from Queen's University. He first taught at the Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México (ITAM), and later at the University of Alberta where he also served as Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President. He later served as senior policy advisor to the Canadian Ministers of International Trade and Foreign Affairs and was a public policy scholar at the Woodrow Wilson Center for International Scholars.

Recognized as a specialist in International Relations and Foreign Policy, Dr. Stevenson has authored and/or co-edited a number of books and articles on Canadian politics, foreign policy, Canada-Mexico relations, Canadian security in Latin America, and the relationship between the Organization of American States and Canada. He has authored and presented dozens of conference papers in Canada, the United States, and Latin America, and has made contributions as a board member of the Canadian Council for the Americas and the Canadian Foundation for the Americas.

Dr. Stevenson is a member of the Advisory Council of Fulbright Canada's Network on North American Studies in Canada (NNASC) and the Editorial Board of Foreign Affairs (Latinoamérica). In addition to being a professor in the Faculty of Business Administration at Lakehead University, he also currently serves as chair of the Board of Directors for the Northern Ontario School of Medicine (NOSM).



Mines and Minerals Symposium 2011

The Ontario Prospectors Association (OPA) hosted their annual Mines and Minerals Symposium in April at the Valhalla Inn.

For the first time in its history, the symposium was held over two days to accomodate the overwhelming demand. Over 500 geologists, prospectors, mining executives and members of the public were present at the symposium. The event saw a 30 percent increase on floor space from last year's conference and had 83 registered booths with an additional 10-15 trade show exhibitors on waiting lists.

Some of the biggest names in mining were in attendance, showcasing the latest findings, technology and new developments.

Individuals from the United States and other parts of Canada all attended the event in numbers, as the buzz about a super cycle in the mining sector continues to spread.

Additional vendors and local organizations were present at the event, including the CEDC. Representatives from the CEDC team were on hand to staff the CEDC booth and to participate in a variety of seminars and networking opportunities.

To celebrate outstanding achievements in the mining industry in Northwestern Ontario, an awards dinner was held the first night of the conference. Four prominent prospectors from the region won the Life-time Achievement Award, namely: Robert Cote of Beardmore; Sherridon Johnson of Dryden; Ray Oja of Thunder Bay (awarded posthumously); and Edward Onabigon of Pic Mobert First Nation (awarded posthumously).

For more information on the mining sector in Northwestern Ontario, contact John Mason at jmason@thunderbay.ca or (807) 625-2480.

THE CEDC TEAM HAS EXPANDED



The Thunder Bay Community Economic Development Commission (CEDC) would like to welcome two new members to our team: John Mason and Diana Orok. John has been appointed as Project Manager, Mining Services and officially assumed his duties on June 13, 2011. His mandate is to grow the exploration and mining sector in Thunder Bay and region as well as to more fully capitalize on the service and supply businesses that feed into the mineral sector.

Diana joined the team as a Development Clerk/Receptionist, and officially assumed her duties on July 25, 2011. John and Diana are both a terrific addition to the team, and will undoubtedly make great contributions! If you stop by our office, be sure to greet these new team members!

John Mason is a Registered Professional Geoscientist in the Province of Ontario and holds an Honour's Bachelor of Science degree in geology from Lakehead University. He is a member of the Canadian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy, the Ontario Prospectors Association, the Northwestern Ontario Prospectors Association and the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada. John has published extensively with the Ontario Geological Survey (OGS). In a 36 year career with the OGS, he focused on precious, base metals and industrial mineral deposits and mineral exploration techniques in Northern Ontario.

John's three favourite things about Thunder Bay: (1) the outdoors (2) fishing (3) the quality of life.

Diana Orok first started working for the City of Thunder Bay several years ago in various departments ranging from Dawson Court: Home for the Aged to Engineering. Previously a "mompreneur", Diana ran a business for over 15 years after having worked for the Ontario Provincial Police for 11 years.

Diana's three favourite things about Thunder Bay: (1) beautiful landscapes (2) short travelling distance (3) Historic Bay Street area.

MINING AND EXPLORATION
IN THE THUNDER BAY AREA AND NW ONTARIO







Mine production in Northwestern Ontario (NWO), is dominated by the gold sector, now and from an historic perspective. Gold was first mined in NWO in the Shebandowan area, at the Huronian (Moss) Mine in 1871, following a discovery made by Peter McKellar and an aboriginal prospecting crew. 140 years later, record gold production was reached in NWO in 2010, exceeding 1.2 million ounces. 2011 promises to break that record again as the Red Lake Mine ramps up to one million ounces of production in the next few years, and the Williams/David Bell Mines (Hemlo) and the Musselwhite Mine, continue with expansion and infrastructure investment.

What does this production mean on a national level? Three of the top four producing mines in Canada are the aforementioned, Red Lake Mine (Goldcorp Inc.), Musselwhite Mine (Goldcorp Inc.) and Williams Mine (Barrick Gold Corporation). These mines are tremendous wealth generators for Ontario, in the form of wages, taxes and indirect and induced business growth, including service and supply support to the mineral sector. The gold mines of NWO directly employ over 2200 employees and contractors, many who reside in municipalities, and First Nation communities in this part of Northern Ontario. [Gold is not the only precious metal mined in NWO; Lac des Iles Mine (North American Palladium Ltd.) is North America's only primary palladium producing mine. A significant portion of the mine workforce of over 200, resides in Thunder Bay.]

Research and Development (R&D) in the mineral sector equates to "exploration". The continuous process of mineral exploration, that is, spending risk dollars, must be undertaken to replace mined out ounces, either within the mine infrastructure or in other high potential locations in NWO. Fortunately there are major gold exploration projects that will likely produce in the next three-five years. These projects include: the Hard Rock Gold Project (Premier Gold Mines Limited) at Greenstone, the Hammond Reef Gold Project (Osisko Mining Corporation) north of Atikokan, the Rainy River Gold Project (Rainy River Resources Ltd.) northwest of Fort Frances, the Phoenix Gold Project (Rubicon Minerals Corp.) at Red Lake, the Bruce Channel Deposit (Goldcorp Inc.) at Red Lake, the Cameron Lake Gold Project (Coventry Resources Limited) southeast of Kenora, and the Goliath Project (Treasury Metals Incorporated) east of Dryden.

Total contained ounces of gold for these seven major exploration projects, exceeds 24 million ounces in three resource categories (measured, indicated and inferred). Exploration will continue on these seven projects in 2011, as well as on an estimated 200-250 other projects in NWO, many at the early exploration stage. Exploration expenditures are estimated to be $475 million dollars for 2011 in NWO, with well over 60% of the funds earmarked for gold! "Exploration" alone, creates many jobs and business growth in NWO. Fueled by record gold prices, excellent geology, a skilled workforce, strong contractor and consultant support, proven new discoveries, excellent infrastructure, and a stable mining/regulatory jurisdiction, expenditures are forecast to continue to rise in NWO.

Other commodities targeted in NWO include: chromite, copper, nickel, zinc, palladium, platinum, silver, diamonds, lithium, rare earth metals, iron, and dimension stone. Granite is extracted in the Dryden and Kenora area by Nelson Granite Ltd. , who produces from five quarries.



Written By: John Mason



FEATURED BUSINESS:

FLADGATE EXPLORATION CONSULTING CORPORATION

THE STORY: Founded in 2007 by three friends. Began with four employees and over a four year period grew to 50 global geologists and mining professionals. Workforce is made up of professionals from Guatemala, Chile, South Africa, Ecuador and Canada.

WHAT THEY DO: Full service mineral exploration consulting group that manages all aspects of mineral exploration programs.

WHY THUNDER BAY? Located in Thunder Bay because of its proximity to client projects, ease of access to financial centres, affordability for both business and attracting talent, and for quality of life.

LOCATION: 195 Park Ave, Downtown Northcore.

Photo By: Aaron Tator



CHARACTERISTICS OF SUCCESSFUL ENTREPRENEURS

Forrest Gump's mother once said: "Life is like a box of chocolates- you never know what you're going to get." Truer words could not have been spoken in the case of the business world. With the current state of the economy, people now more than ever, are thinking about creating their own job by becoming an entrepreneur.

Starting a business can be a very rewarding experience, but it can also be very challenging. So what does it take to become a successful entrepreneur? Lots of money? Perhaps. The best business idea in the world? Maybe. Though it would help to have both, any true entrepreneur will tell you that it is going to take much more than that to become successful.

Granted that everyone has a different definition of success, one fact remains true: there are particular traits found amongst a wide range of entrepreneurs that have been the driving force behind their success (however they may define it).

We've put together a list of a few of these characterisitcs for those of you that are considering starting a new venture. So, before you run off to begin writing your business plan, take the time to seriously consider whether or not you possess any of these characteristics. Entrepreneurship is not for everyone.

Passion

Do you love what you do? Are you passionate about your business idea? Can you see yourself pursuing it wholeheartedly for days on end? If you don't have passion for what you do, it will be hard to perservere should things become difficult. You cannot expect anyone to believe in your idea or to support it if you don't yourself. It's a tough and competitive world out there and you need to be your own biggest advocate. Passion will help keep you on track and remind you of why you decided to start your business in the first place.

Integrity

Integrity will help your business last beyond your lifetime. It's importance cannot be understated. The world is changing, and values are changing. If you don't build ethics in the business, you may not last long. However competitive the market may be, being fair, honest and trustworthy will get you a lot further in the end and will help you build valuable and longlasting relationships with your customers, suppliers and employees.

Patience

Good things come to those who wait. In a society where instant gratification is the norm, many think that they will become the next Google or Facebook overnight. Bringing a dose of reality into the picture - this won't happen. It will take time to plan, to build a customer base, to create awareness about your brand, to pay back your financers, to become an established business., etc. Curve balls may be thrown your way, and things could go wrong, so patience and perserverance are key. Focus on your vision, and don't give up on it.

Flexible & Able to Adapt

If there's something that is constant, it's change. Over time, the market will change, your customers' needs will change, new technologies will be created and the world will move in a new direction. As an entrepreneur, you need to be flexible enough to embrace these new changes and be open-minded enough to see how they could benefit you and your business. If you don't change, your competition certainly will and you will be left sitting in the dust. Be open to new ideas and new ways of doing things. Be ready to have to modify or extend your product or service-line to meet changing needs of present and future customers. Be flexible and adapt to new situations as needed. Oftentimes many entrepreneurs begin with one business idea and in the course of their efforts find another route (which may be competely different from what they were pursuing), that is more successful or rewarding.

People-Skills

Knowing how to interact with others and deal with different personalities is monumentally important, as not knowing how could make running a business really challenging. Customer personalities come in all different shapes and sizes, as do employees and suppliers. An entrepreneur needs to know and understand how to work with various personalities in order to get the best out of everyone and reduce any conflict that may arise as a result of a difference in personalities.

Commitment

Any entrepreneurial venture will not happen without commitment. You must stay committed in the face of setbacks or disappointments. When you have a plan, you must be commmitted enough to follow it through, regardless of what could happen. You need to be committed enough to work the long hours that may be required of you. You need to be committed enough to start all over again if things don't work out as planned. You need to be committed to learn from your and others' mistakes. You need to be committed to never give up on your dream.

Discipline

Being your own boss is one of the highlights of running your own business. However, being the boss also entails responsibililty. You need to have the discipline to do the "boring" jobs even though it may be tempting to "do it later". Putting off work you don't like may work the first time or two, but the fact is that if you don't do it, it won't get done and this could harm your business.

Willingness to learn

Oftentimes, a lot of what entrepreneurs learn is not through a classroom but rather on their own by seeking out information, asking questions and doing personal reading and research. True entrepreneurs surround themselves with people who either know more than they do or know things that are different from what they know. They are open to various perspectives which is enriching for them and for others. In order to keep growing your business, (and as a person), you must always continue to learn and not think that you know everything. There's always an opportunity to learn something from everyone - take it.

Brought to you by:

THE entrepreneur CENTRE
Building Business

If you are interested in starting a business and are unsure as to how to start, contact Ron Humphreys for a free consultation at:

(T): 807 625 3972
(F): 807 623 3962
(Toll Free): 1 800 668 9360
(E): rhumphreys@thunderbay.ca



ABORIGINAL BUSINESS DAY

Aspiring entrepreneurs and business owners filled the room at Aboriginal Business Day, a day-long event hosted by the Thunder Bay & District Entrepreneur Centre in partnership with the Ontario Ministry of Economic Development and Trade. Setting the tone for the day, the award-winning Thunder Mountain Singers sang a prayer with voices that resonated with the crowd. Representatives from various governmental and non-governmental organizations such as the Canadian Youth Business Foundation, Nishnawbe Aski Development Fund, Business Development Bank of Canada and the Thunder Bay Public Library were all on hand to give presentations to the participants. The event provided an opportunity for Aboriginal business owners and entrepreneurs to develop small business skills, and to learn about programs and services that are available to them. Participants were also able to network and engage in roundtable discussions on pertinent business topics. One of many related events across Ontario, Aboriginal Business Day served as a stepping stone towards future success for all of the business owners and entrepreneurs present at the event.

CEDC SPEAKER SERIES

INSPIRING CHANGE, CREATING OPPORTUNITIES

As part of an on-going initiative aimed at inspiring change and creating opportunities, the CEDC hosted, in partnership with Lakehead University (LU), another edition of the CEDC Speaker Series. This edition featured Dr. Lendley Black, Chancellor of the University of Minnesota Duluth (UMD), who spoke on the role that universities and colleges play in economic development.

One of the primary messages that Dr. Black relayed during his presentation was the need for universities and colleges to build partnerships with their communities in addition to educating students. By reaching out to the community, opportunities could be created internally for schools, their students, and for economic development.

The University of Minnesota Duluth has worked hard to build external relationships, to the point that industry approaches them for assistance; although, it occasionally works the other way. Dr. Black provided an example of how a company working the iron range in Northern Minnesota, approached the school to look at ways of making their operations more cost efficient. The school was able help the company remove steps to produce its products in a shorter period of time. A lot of the work was done through UMD's Natural Resource Research Intitute, which receives a majority of its funding through grants and collaborations with the private sector.



In this photo: Brian Campbell (former Executive Director of Government Relations, Confederation College), Dr. Lendley Black (Chancellor of the University of Minnesota Duluth), Steve Demmings (CEO, Thunder Bay Community Economic Development Commission), Dr. Rui Wang (Vice-President of Research, Lakehead University).

UMD has many partnerships with different industries including the mining industry in Northern Ontario. With the looming potential of the Ring of Fire, UMD's partnership with the mining industry could become much more prosperous. According to Dr. Black, there is no reason that schools situated north of the border cannot experience similar success.

Representatives from LU and UMD held the sentiment that the sister universities could learn a lot from one another.

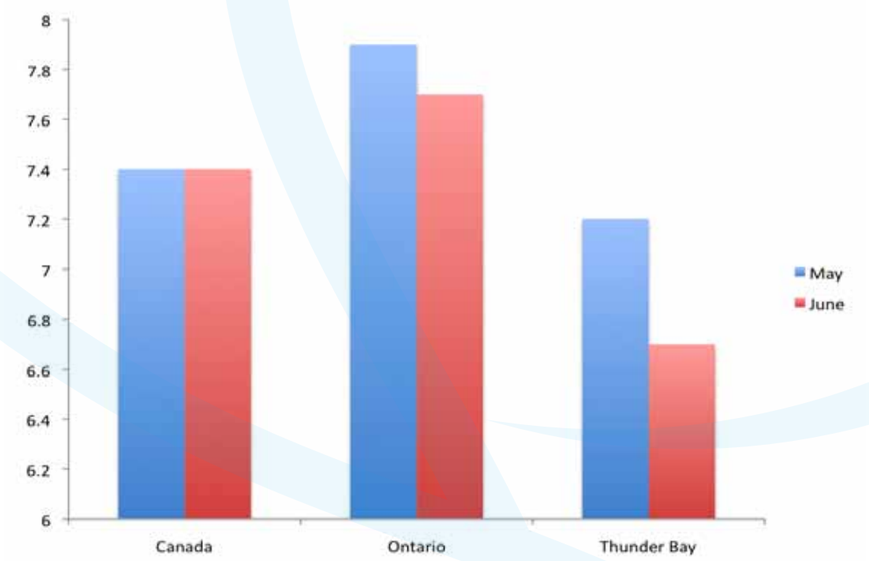
Dr. Wang (Vice-President of Research, Lakehead University) noted that the type of entrepreneurial activity displayed at UMD is what he is trying to foster both at the Thunder Bay and Orillia campuses. He said that he could see both universities treating econmic development as an important task to undertake.



Dr. Black listening attentively during a question and answer session.

ECONOMIC INDICATORS

Comparative Unemployment Rates (%) May - June 2011



Consumer Price Index (%) April - June 2011



Building Permits May 2011

Type	Permits	Units	Valuations $	Permits Year to Date	Units Year to Date	Valuations Year to Date $
Apartment Blocks	1	0	100,000	2	4	452,000
Duplex Dwelling	1	1	252,000	6	7	854,000
Single Dwelling	32	32	7,063,000	69	69	15,062,000
Residential Additions & Alterations	52	0	465,000	169	20	2,686,000
Residential Shed & Garage	24	0	406,000	48	0	754,000
Commercial	5	0	1,460,000	23	0	7,452,000
Commercial Additions & Alterations	21	2	1,198,800	74	2	13,156,800
Industrial	0	0	0	4	0	2,865,000
Industrial Additions & Alterations	2	0	12,600	11	0	653,600
Institutional	0	0	0	1	0	7,853,000
Institutional Additions & Alterations	2	0	535,000	20	0	1,713,200
Totals	140	35	11,492,000	427	102	53,501,600

Building Permits June 2011

Type	Permits	Units	Valuations $	Permits Year to Date	Units Year to Date	Valuations Year to Date $
Apartment Blocks	2	136	17,671,000	4	140	18,123,000
Duplex Dwelling	0	0	0	6	7	854,000
Single Dwelling	15	15	3,458,000	84	84	18,520,000
Residential Additions & Alterations	133	1	618,000	302	21	3,304,000
Residential Shed & Garage	28	0	597,000	86	0	1,351,000
Commercial	9	0	2,941,000	32	0	10,393,000
Commercial Additions & Alterations	19	0	1,442,000	92	2	14,593,800
Industrial	2	0	228,000	6	0	3,093,000
Industrial Additions & Alterations	1	0	4,000	12	0	657,600
Institutional	1	0	180,000	2	0	8,033,000
Institutional Additions & Alterations	6	0	404,000	26	0	2,117,200
Totals	226	152	27,543,000	652	254	81,039,600



Immigration Portal Mobile Launch

Northwestern Ontario has become more accessible to the world through innovation and technology. Individuals all around the world can now learn about living, working, and doing business in the Northwest through the touch of a button on their smartphone.

The Northwestern Ontario Immigration Portal and its 32-member communities presented a new, award-winning mobile version of its site for smartphones at a launch event in early June 2011.

The site has the capability to translate into 15 different languages; contains 30 photo galleries and over 800 pages of content as well as several short films about the experiences of newcomers to Northwestern Ontario.

The new mobile site serves as an effective tool for attracting newcomers to Northwestern Ontario and for creating economic development within the region.



In this photo: Ron Humphreys (Development Officer, Thunder Bay & District Entrepreneur Centre) a member of the Portal Advisory Committee.

In addition to the mobile site, another key improvement was made to the portal. The 32 participating communities from Northwestern Ontario have been enabled to post their local jobs and businesses for sale on the site. This information will become part of a centralized regional directory that potential newcomers and investors can access to view existing opportunities in the region.



Featured Real Estate Listing:
The James Whalen Building

With a downtown northcore location, this heritage property overlooks one of Canada's great natural wonders, the Sleeping Giant.

This 8-storey high building provides a spectacular view of the burgeoning waterfront and is within walking distance of restaurants, entertainment venues and retail stores.

Equipped with a fascinating history, the James Whalen Building is ready to house new tenants with a focus on information, communication technology however, other prospective tenants are encouraged to contact the Thunder Bay CEDC. The inside of the building can be renovated to suit needs.

Leasing opportunities will be opening in 2012. If you are interested in leasing prime real estate in this historic building or would like more information, contact the Thunder Bay CEDC at (807) 625-3960 or Realty Services at (807) 625-2216.

Did You Know?

1. Construction on the James Whalen Building began in 1913 by the Canadian Stewart Company of Montreal.
2. The building was designed by Brown and Vallance of Montreal and resembles the Chicago skyscraper style, the use of which was in keeping with James Whalen's desire to position Port Arthur (now Thunder Bay) as the "Chicago of the North."
3. This skyscraper was once hailed as the "finest between Winnipeg and Toronto."

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